



Pet Project Foundation

Benefitting the San Clemente -
Dana Point Animal Shelter

Wagging Tails

Inside you'll find more feature stories and Gifts of Love.

PPF Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2004

Snuggles – A Shelter Dog’s Adventure



This is a story about Snuggles, a two year old Pit Bull Terrier, adopted from the Shelter, who went missing after two weeks. Sue Walshe, president of Pet Project Foundation, received a letter from Shelley Benson/Green, the loving owner, in which she reported Snuggles’ misadventures.

Nothing could have prepared us for the loss of our beautiful Snuggles, she said, whom we rescued 2 weeks earlier from the Shelter. Snuggles was a special dog – gentle, laid back and loving. At the shelter she was receiving special treatment for her injuries and poor health.

We took one look at her and our hearts melted. Snuggles was coming home! She settled in quickly, enjoyed being with our family, riding in the car and learning new scents and sounds. She slept in her bed in our teenage son’s room. She could not have been a more perfect pet. We were totally in love with her and her with us.

Two weeks after bringing her home from the shelter, while walking off leash, she bolted after a rabbit or cat. We called and searched for hours in the dark before going home, hoping she had found her way.

For 6 days we searched, called, and drove around San Clemente and the beaches. We put up posters. But Snuggles had vanished into thin air and we were heartbroken. Our house was now empty. Snuggles bed lay where she had left it, chews and dog food bags still in place.

On a Friday evening, we arranged to continue the search on Saturday. Friends volunteered to help. We were going to take her bed with us, hoping its scent trail would help. We went to bed hoping that the next day would bring good fortune.

What happened next was nothing short of a miracle! On Saturday, in the wee morning hours, we heard a noise of lapping water outside the house. Thinking it might be a wild animal, we didn’t move until the sound stopped. Tiptoeing to the screen we discovered Snuggles... wagging her tail, begging to be let in.

Christmas came early to the Green household. Snuggles’ arrival home was better than any store-

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bought present. Snuggles took it all in her stride – ate, drank water, and contentedly went to sleep, happy to be home! Although Snuggles had some cuts, sore pads, and had lost a lot of weight, she was home and we were complete again!

Snuggles is almost back to normal. Shelley said she would never be allowed off leash again. "Only those who have lost a precious pet can understand the suffering we felt while she was gone." If Snuggles could talk, I know she would tell us all about her adventure of being lost.

It turns out that Snuggles has a history. Shortly after she came home, Shelley was taking her for a walk when a woman approached and began making a fuss over Snuggles. It appears that this woman knew Snuggles' previous owner and Snuggles under the name of Paprika. Unfortunately Paprika's former owner, who loved her dearly, had been killed in a car crash that also injured Paprika/Snuggles. After the crash Snuggles made her way home and was taken in by someone who did not give her the same loving care. During this time Snuggles had two litters before ending up at the Shelter. So, perhaps when Snuggles disappeared and did not return for 5 days, she was looking for her previous owner.

The Greens discovered that Snuggles has a brother living just a few blocks away. So, it looks like there may be a family reunion in the very near future! 🏠



Tail of Two Cities 2004 – A financial success!



By Ruth Rosen

The TOTC was held on Oct. 4th at the Laguna Niguel Country Club. Over 200 guests, dressed in South Pacific elegance, spent the evening visiting, bidding at the silent and live auction, sipping Mai Tais while listening to south pacific music and finally dining at an elegant sit-down dinner. They and many sponsors for the evening's affair enabled the Pet Project Foundation to raise over \$80,000 for the support of the San Clemente-Dana Point Animal Shelter. These funds will be used to provide food, medical services, beds, kennel attendants and much more for the welfare of the lost, abandoned and abused animals housed at the shelter.

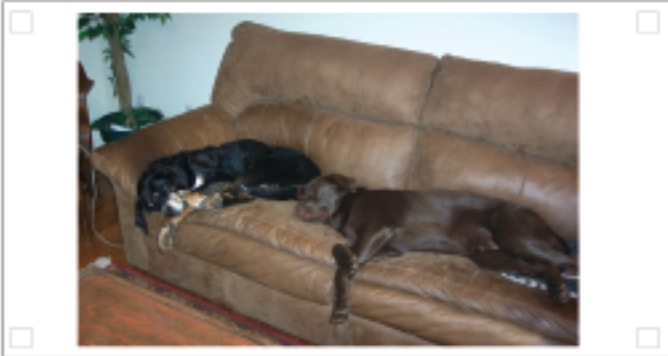
The guest of honor was Benji, the dog of Hollywood fame. He kept his composure as many of the guests held him, petted him and posed for pictures with him. While Benji was delighting the guests, Troy Cox was busily creating a live pet portrait of the lucky winner of the opportunity drawing.

The tables at the event were laden with delightful goodies. This year, for the first time, there was a special kid's table.

The silent auction of a one-hour flight in a North American AT-6 plane was a huge success. A bidding war ended with the owner of the plane, Doug Dotter, donating two rides, each at \$3000.

When the party ended and guests departed with their goodies, many were heard expressing delight about the event and their desire to attend again next year. Another successful fundraiser for our precious animals! 🏠

In Tribute To Gizelle – Shelter Dog And Family Pet



By Ruth Rosen

Gizelle was the devoted canine companion of Cris, and became her "absolute million-dollar addition to this family." From the beginning, they seemed meant for each other. After visiting with Gizelle, for extended walks and "together time," Cris adopted her from the Shelter in 1990 and became her loving, caring guardian. Cris wanted a pet now that she had a home for one and the two became inseparable. Gizelle lived to be approximately 14.

Still a pup when adopted, Gizelle still had her share of shoe – and remote-chewing to do. All was forgiven, however, as she matured and became Cris' wonderful, constant companion. Through good times and bad, Gizelle was always treated as a member of the family. Although she had not a mean bone in her body, Gizelle commanded respect. As Cris says, "she just had an air about her." She would share the couch with you but no one ever asked her to give up her place.

When Gizelle was 10, she accompanied Cris to Europe for 18 days to visit family. After traveling for 23 hours, Gizelle got off the plane and let everyone know who she was. With head held high, she commanded both the love and respect of all.

Cris says, "Gizelle, you had no money, no political influence, no earthly possessions, you were just loved for who you were. Had you fallen into a river, and me a poor swimmer, I would have dived into that river for you." What better testament can there be for a shelter dog who found a loving home and loving guardian? Cris says although she has other rescue dogs, none can take the place of Gizelle in her heart.

Many thanks to the Shelter for bringing Cris and Gizelle together. 🏠

Wag It Up!

By Paula Becker

Would you like to see just about all manner of dog breeds? Would you like your dog to participate in a sniff fest that only a dog could appreciate? Then mark your calendar for Saturday, March 12, 2005, for Pet Project Foundation's 12th annual Wag-A-Thon. We'll entertain you with music and performances by the Disc Dogs in Southern California. You'll be able to participate in the fabulous pet contests, snack at the food booth, and shop the bazaar. And you can look forward to more events which are now in the planning stage.

For your \$25 admission fee (that's \$5 off the fee the week of the event), you will receive a t-shirt with this year's logo, a bandanna for your dog, and a goody bag. Additionally, we will admit your family members for \$3 each. By collecting pledges for your participation in the Wag walk, you could be eligible for great prizes.

The Wag-A-Thon is held in conjunction with the Festival of Whales, which runs for two weekends in Dana Point. Come to the Festival's Street Faire March 5 and 6, sign up for the Wag, and enjoy that festivity as well.

Brochures will be mailed out in February. To download a pledge form so you can start collecting pledges now, go to www.petprojectfoundation.org. You can also add yourself to the brochure distribution list online. Later, you can even sign up for the event online.

Your dog wants to join in the fun at the Wag-A-Thon. Sign up and bring him or her. Or if you don't have a dog, come get your dog fix and support this terrific fund-raising event. After all, this event is all about the dogs. Support for this event is support for all of the animals at the San Clemente-Dana Point Animal Shelter!

If you are interested in volunteering for the Wag, please go to the website for information. 🏠

Meet Denise: Pooch Trainer Extraordinaire

By Christel Hall



If you haven't met Denise Sbath, CPDT and you're a dog owner, you might want to correct that situation soon. Denise is the dog trainer and behaviorist for the San Clemente-Dana Point Animal Shelter. She is certified in the U.S. by APDT, the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, the largest nationwide association endorsed by most humane organizations for pet dog training. Denise is also certified by an animal behavior college in her native U.K. for advanced canine psychology.

Denise has more than fifteen years of canine training experience, is a training member of the APDT, and a member of the Humane Society. She has both rescue and shelter dog experience, and is working hard for the communities of San Clemente and Dana Point to improve the adoptability of each dog that comes into the shelter, and to train volunteers in dog handling skills.

Originally from London, Denise found her passion for dogs when she first trained her German shepherd, Wolf. She moved to Florida in 1980, where she continued her career in the canine field, working for the Humane Society for over six years. She oversaw adoptions and consulted on behavioral problem dogs. She was also employed with a major canine training organization and has trained thousands of dogs in homes and group classes. Over the years, Denise has attended many, varied workshops and dog training seminars in both the U.S. and the U.K.

Now Working for Us

Denise moved to California in 2002, working first in Fresno, and then joining us here in South County at our Shelter in May, 2004. For at least the next six months, Denise is working full-time at the Shelter; all day, five days a week. She spends most of her time handling 'rowdy' dogs and advising Shelter volunteers on issues covering everything from play biting, to roughhousing, to under-socialization. Under-socialization is a big problem for many dogs who come into the Shelter, as many dog owners unfortunately "abandon" their dogs to back yards once the newness of owning their pet has worn off.

"Dogs need socialization, early on especially," says Denise. In answer to my questions regarding a dog's need for attention and exercise, Denise replied "Yes, many behavior control problems are a result of a lack of these two elements. Dogs are social animals who respond to the pack structure, and the dog-owner family is the pack. Dogs need social interaction and exercise. Just as a person does, a dog needs 15-20 minutes a day of vigorous exercise... running, jumping, ball fetching, etc. And even older dogs can be taught behavior modification until fairly late in life."

If you adopted (or will adopt) your dog from our Shelter, know that Denise provides free phone consultations regarding dog behavior or care. If you didn't obtain your dog at the Shelter, you might want to take advantage of Denise's in-home behavioral consulting or group classes, either for puppy training, basic training, or behavior modification. The latter specifically addresses things like acting out issues: separation anxiety, digging, chewing, territorial marking, adult dog housebreaking, stealing, jumping, excessive barking, other-dog aggression and people aggression.

'Gentle Leader' Harnesses

A strong believer in 'gentle leader' harnesses, Denise knows their acceptance is in the early stages, but in her opinion, trainers and owners who continue to use prong or choke-chain-type collars have just not been exposed to the best and latest information. In fact, prong-type collars are outlawed in some European countries.

"Gentle leaders and positive training ultimately work best, in addition to being the most humane," says Denise. "Prong and choke-type collars might work in the short-term, but they only serve to increase aggression in assertive dogs, and produce a backlash effect in the long-term. They can also produce severe trauma in shy dogs. Many of the dog owners I've consulted for can attest to the fact that even in best-case scenarios where prong or choke collars work initially, there's a tendency for dogs to just pull harder later as they become desensitized to them."

Left: The "gentle leader" harness guides the dog's actions through gentle-to-firm pressure on the back of the head and the muzzle, rather than choking and dragging the dog...actions which at best, work only in the short-term, and at worst may traumatize or harm the dog, increase aggression over time, or desensitize the dog to collar obedience.

Denise recommends the gentle leader harness (see photos), using positive reinforcement, and small, healthy training treats, such as Solid Gold Tiny Tots treats, or any of the soft or freeze-dried liver treats. Denise says, "Positive feedback and treats are primary motivators that continue to work in the long-term, without harm to the pet or owner."


Striving for Good Adoptions

What is an "adoptable" dog according to Denise and the Shelter? Denise says it's one that's not a danger to himself or the potential owner, and is a good match. A large dog that might not be a great match for a family because of very young children for example, might be perfect for an active, adult couple. The Shelter tries to hold on to and train dogs until they are adoptable, but the time requirement this involves sometimes depends on how much attention and work they think the adopting family will apply. Adopting a dog means a time commitment and a dedication to working on any behavior problems that may come up.

What are the three biggest mistakes owners make? According to Denise they are:


- rewarding bad or unwanted behavior (sometimes unintentionally),
- severe negative reinforcement (shock collars, bark collars, swatting dogs with newspapers, etc.),
- and inconsistent training.

If you're ready to adopt your next dog, please visit the Shelter. Or, visit Wal-Mart every Sunday from noon until 3:00 p.m., where Shelter volunteers bring three or four dogs, ready for a good home, to meet prospective owners.

If you have questions about adopting a dog, call the Shelter at 492-1617. 

Pet Project Foundation's Annual Claws and Paws

PPF announces its annual Santa Claws and Paws will be held Saturday, December 4th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Dana Point Community House. Do not miss this opportunity to have your pet's picture taken with Santa Claus. Local veterinarians playing Santa Claus will pose with your pet for a photograph by a professional photographer, who is experienced in taking pet photos. Should you not have a pet, no problem, as this is a family affair. Santa will pose with you and your family. For only \$10.00, you will receive a 5X7 photo. The proceeds from these photos will be used for the care and welfare of all animals at the San Clemente-Dana Point Animal Shelter.

In addition to pictures with Santa, there will be crafts and fresh, home-baked goods for sale, along with raffles. So come join the fun at Dana Point Community House at 24642 San Juan Ave., between Del Prado and PCH, north of Golden Lantern and behind the Harbor House Restaurant. 

Happy Holidays


The holidays are such a wonderful time at the shelter. We work hard all year to put together fundraisers that will continue the level of commitment we have for our shelter animals. Sometimes it seems that we spend countless hours making it possible for our dogs to have proper training, our cats kept healthy and happy, and our rabbits receiving proper hay. Our publicity machine must be running at full steam, so the community can hear about the shelter and commit volunteer hours or funds or most importantly, a happy home. When you consider the Tail Of Two Cities is a four-month job in itself, and the Wag-A-Thon preparations begin now for a March start date... that's a lot of work! We also organize and staff the Flight of Fancy, Fiesta booth, Wal Mart Pet Adoption weekends, Paws and Claus... all while volunteering the seven-day-a-week man hours that keep the shelter open and active.

We love it all... and every holiday we send out this beautiful holiday newsletter, offering you the chance to show your love too. The Gift of Love issue allows all the loyal supporters of the shelter to send a few

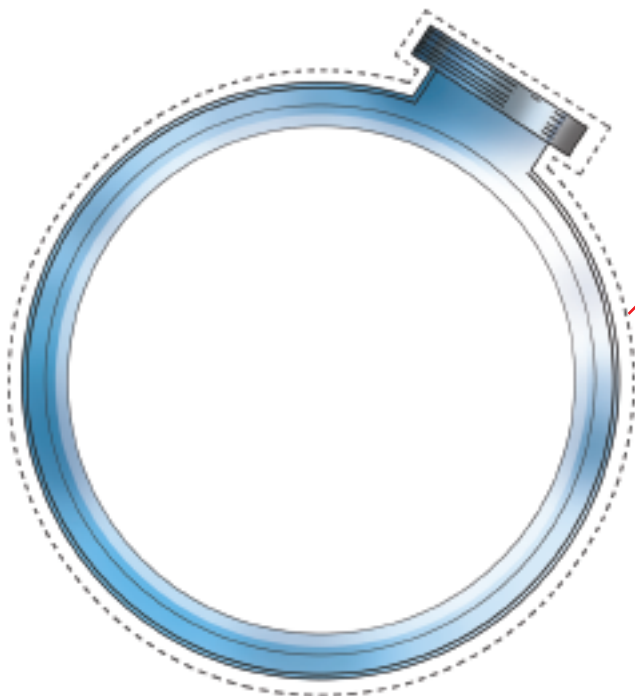
dollars or recognize a shelter alumni with our holiday ornament offering. Every year we decorate the lobby tree with photos you send us by cutting out the holiday ornament on this page, attaching your adopted animal's picture and mailing it back to us. Last year's tree was covered with photos and we get to revisit all the animals we loved and cared for while they were waiting for you!

Enjoy this festive season with your family and pets and remember to keep us in mind all year. If you would like to drop by holiday dog toys, catnip, soft dog beds, cardboard paper towel rolls or any items you'd think our animals would enjoy... we will happily put them under our tree. Items may be dropped off at San Clemente/Dana Point Animal Shelter... 221 Avenida Fabricante...San Clemente.

Happy Holidays!

Valerie Treaster
Pet Project Foundation
Chairman of the Board. 

Holiday Ornament



Cut out your holiday ornament on the dotted line and add your adopted animal's photo.



Gifts Of Love



In Memory of: (People)

Joel Smith from Barbara Smith
 My aunt, Virginia Smith from April Walsey
 Jim Bergholtz from Donald & Marianne Cook
 Emil from Patricia Miller
 Robert L. Bro from Bob Elwell
 Hazel Roberts from Joyce Ward
 Mr. "Chuck" Thompson from Mrs. Chuck Thompson
 Rev. Wayne Smith for his love of animals from Mimi & Harry Lederman
 Pat Francis from Elaine Tully
 Elizabeth Kester from Bill, Ombra, Tiffy Poncho & Bun Bun
 Marie Tucker from Pauline Lee
 Beau Shigetomi from Sandra Shigetomi-Toyama
 Ellie La Borde "In memory of a life too short but very sweet" from Franci Sassin
 Dave Polak from Evelyn Love
 Dwight Sandidge, my dad on his birthday July 1, 1932 from Charlene Van Beek
 Gina Smith from her daughter Anne Miller
 Naomi Dyson and Tommy Hopper from Dottie & Tom Hopper

In Memory of: (Beloved Pets)

Tripod, our loving cat from Donald & Marianne Cook
 Kumie- We love you from Deborah & Donald Richkas
 Punkin beloved dog of Kellie from Nancy Thompson
 Spudnut & Whiskers from Ann Weaver
 Nikki, My best friend from Susan Metcalf
 Snuggles from Betty Winters
 Princess, My heart and soul from Bob Kaiser
 Scruffy from Pat Hendry
 Bailey from Mary Palys
 Bobby, beloved cat of Colette Justie from Jo Carey, Janie Collins & Mary Finn
 Kitty from Mary Finn
 Callie, beloved cat of Pat Miller from Colette Justie, Jo Carey & Mary Finn
 Cassie from Gina Bluhm
 Mama-Dog from Ann Cole
 Gidget Mae from Jane Hoover
 Laddie Boy & Fiona from Mary & Chris Rushing

In Memory of: (Beloved Pets) [continued](#)

Babe & Bubba, loving dogs from Warren Kramer
 Woody from Marilyn Darch
 Tucker from Haven & Mary Carson
 Maggie & Jamie, our forever adored dogs from Doris Feinberg
 Meghan from Janie Veta
 Teddy "My Dear Cocker" from Cybel Maio
 Sandy from Pat & Fred Bouman
 Maggie, We miss you so much from Jerry & Elinor Hierro
 Freja Mary from Sandra Jansen
 Fling Henry from Michelle Williams
 Sammy, from Avis French

In Honor of:

Sponger from M. Glover
 Rafferty and Hooligan from Eric and Patricia Lamont
 Niles adopted in January from Carolyn Penrose
 Max, adopted in September from Sheila Karre
 Sandy's Birthday, our favorite pet from Russell & Florence Watson
 Baby
 Quincy from Renee Schorle
 "Momma Cat" from Rita Fraser

Happy Birthday

Kathleen Sorensen from Janet Elaydo
 Hannah Deveney from Kim Lopina
 Loren & Ollie from Megan Manoram-Lau
 Russ Gold from James Ardery





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Happy Holidays!


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Wagging Tails

Pet Project Foundation
Benefitting the San Clemente - Dana Point Animal Shelter

Upcoming Events

 December 4, 2004
Claws and Paws

 March 12, 2005
Wag-A-Thon

